To raiſe a preſent ſumme ; therefore goe forth,
Trie what my credit can in *Venice* doe,
That ſhall be rackt even to the uttermoſt,
To furniſh thee to *Belmount* to faire *Portia*.
Goe preſently enquire, and ſo will I,
Where money is, and I no queſtion make
To have it of my truſt, or for my ſake. *Exeunt.*

Enter *Portia* with her wating-woman *Nerriſſa*.

Por. By my troth *Nerriſſa*, my little body is aweary of this great world.

Ner. You would be, ſweet Madam, if your miſeries were in the ſame abundance as your good fortunes are : and yet for ought I ſee, they are as ſick that ſurfeit with too much, as they that ſtarve with nothing ; it is no meane happines therefore to be ſeated in the meane, ſuperfluitie comes ſooner by white haires, but competencie lives longer.

Por. Good ſentences, and well pronounc'd.

Ner. They would be better if well follow'd.

Por. If to do were as eaſie as to know what were good to do, Chappels had beene Churches, and poore mens cottages Princes Pallaces, it is a good divine that followes his owne inſtructions, I can eaſier teach twenty vvhat were good to be done, then to be one of the twenty to follow mine own teaching : the braine may deviſe lawes for the blood, but a hote temper leapes ore a cold decree, ſuch a hare is madnes the youth, to skip ore the meſhes of good counſell the cripple ; but this reaſoning is not in the faſhion to chooſe me a husband, ô mee the word chooſe, I may neither chooſe who I would, nor refuſe who I diſlike, ſo is the wil of a lyving daughter curbd by the will of a dead father : is it not harde *Nerriſſa*, that I cannot chooſe one, nor refuſe none.

Ner. Your Father was ever vertuous, and holy men at their death have good inſpirations, therefore the lottry that he hath deviſed in theſe three cheſts of gold, ſilver, and leade, vvhereof who chooſes his meaning chooſes you, will no doubt never be choſen by any rightly, but one who you ſhall rightly love : But vvhat warmth is there in your affection towards any of theſe Princely ſuters that are already come ?

Por.

Por. I pray thee over-r
will deſcribe them, and a
my affection.

Ner. Firſt there is the

Por. I, that's a colt inc
his horſe, and he makes it a
parts, that he can ſhooe hir
die his mother plaid falſe v

Ner. Then is there the

Por. He doth nothing b
will not have me, chooſe;
feare hee will prove the w
old, being ſo full of unma
ther be married to a Death
to either of theſe : God d

Ner. How ſay you by t

Por. God made him, a
truth I know it is a ſin to
horſe better than the *Neop*
than the Count *Palentine*,
ſing, he ſtraight fals a cape
dow. If I ſhould marry
if he would deſpiſe me, I
to madneſſe, I ſhall never

Ner. What ſay you th
of *England* ?

Por. You know I ſay n
me, nor I him: he hath nei
will come into the Court
worth in the Engliſh : he
can converſe with a dumb
he bought his doublet in
net in *Germanie*, and his b

Ner. What thinke you

Por. That he hath a ne
rowed a box of the eare o
pay him againe when he
came his Suretie, and ſeal

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